



Are there benefits or risks if I participate in a study?

- The study may not help you personally, but your participation may result in information that will help others in the future.
- Any risks or side effects may not be known completely when you start the study. The research team is required to tell you about any known risks.
- Your agreement to volunteer should be based upon a clear understanding of what will take place in the study and how it might affect you.



What if I do not want to take part in a research study?

- If anyone asks you to take part in a research study, you have the right to say “no.”
- Your decision will not affect your VA health care or benefits.
- You need to weigh both the risks of the study and the benefits.
- It may be helpful to talk with family members, friends or your health care providers before you make a decision.
- If you decide to take part in a study, you do so as a **VOLUNTEER**. This means **YOU** decide.
- You can change your mind and stop or leave a research study at any time without losing any of your VA health care benefits.

COACH Center On Advice
& Compliance Help
Helping VA facilities protect veterans in research
www.va.gov/resdev/programs/PRIDE

Volunteering in **RESEARCH**



**Here are
some things
you need
to know**



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

S hould I take part in a VA research study?

The VA ranks as one of the nation's leaders in health research. For example, the VA:

- Developed artificial limbs that allow amputees more independence and a better quality of life
- Invented the cardiac pacemaker
- Performed the first successful liver transplantation
- Played a major role in the development of the CT (or CAT) scan to view the inside of the body
- Tested new drugs and treatments for such diseases as AIDS, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and osteoporosis
- Developed the nicotine patch to help people stop smoking

None of these advances in health care would have been possible without individuals willing to volunteer to take part in research.



W hat questions should I ask before volunteering?

Here are some questions you might ask before deciding to take part in a research study at a VA Medical Center or clinic:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Who is doing this study and what questions might it answer? | <input type="checkbox"/> Could my condition get worse during the study? What happens if it does? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who reviewed or approved this study? | <input type="checkbox"/> What other options or choices do I have if I decide not to take part in this study? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How long will this study last? | <input type="checkbox"/> Who will be in charge of my care? Can I continue seeing my own doctor? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What could happen to me, good or bad, if I take part in this study? | <input type="checkbox"/> Will I be charged anything or paid anything to be in this study? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What tests or procedures will I have during the study? | <input type="checkbox"/> If I decide to participate, how will it affect my daily life? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Who will be told I am taking part in this study? | <input type="checkbox"/> Will I have to make extra trips to the VA? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will this research help in understanding my condition? If so, how? | <input type="checkbox"/> What will happen to me at the end of the study? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is it possible that I will receive a placebo (inactive substance)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Will I be told the results of the study? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What happens to any specimens that I give? | <input type="checkbox"/> How do I end my participation in this study if I change my mind? |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Whom do I contact for questions and information about the study? |